

Resources for helping your child

Many children in Cleveland are exposed to lead paint or dust in their homes or yards. No level of lead is safe; it can damage a child's brain and cause learning or behavioral problems. The best thing is to prevent little kids from getting exposed. Here are things you can do to advocate for your child.



If you suspect there's lead in your home:

- Cleveland residents can call the city health department's lead poisoning program, **216-263-5323**.
- Cuyahoga County residents outside of Cleveland can call the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, **216-201-2000**.
- Home test kits to check for lead dust in paint and on surfaces are sold at most hardware stores (about \$10).
- Check Cleveland's registry at tinyurl.com/LeadHazardRegistry to see if your home has a documented history of lead hazards.



If your child has lead poisoning:

- City or county health officials must investigate to find out where your child was exposed if the blood test is 10 micrograms per deciliter or more.
- Continue to monitor the poisoning with blood tests.
- Take these simple steps immediately to make the environment safer: Wipe feet before entering the house and remove shoes at the door; cover bare dirt with 6 inches of mulch; use duct tape or contact paper to cover peeling paint; make sure your child is getting enough iron and calcium; wash your child's hands frequently with soap and water, not sanitizer because it doesn't remove lead.
- If your home has lead pipes, run the water for at least 45 seconds before drinking and don't use it to make formula bottles. Go to tinyurl.com/CleLeadWaterPipesAwareness.



If there's a lead hazard in your home:

- If you are a renter, your landlord is responsible for fixing lead hazards. If they aren't fixed, call Cleveland Housing Court, **216-664-4295**.
- If your landlord raises rent or tries to evict you after your child is poisoned, call Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, **216-687-1900**.
- Grants and loans for qualified homeowners exist to fix lead hazards. In Cleveland, call **216-664-2045**; in Cuyahoga County outside Cleveland, **216-201-2000, ext. 1527**.
- If you are low-income and are pregnant or have children and need emergency help to move, call Cuyahoga County Job and Family Services, **216-416-4440**, to see if you qualify.



If your child has tested high for lead and is struggling with learning or behavioral issues:

- If your child is 3 years old or younger, has a lead level above 5 micrograms per deciliter and is having trouble learning or has behavior problems, you may be able to access early intervention services, such as Head Start or Cuyahoga County's Help Me Grow program. You can learn more at ohioearlyintervention.org or **1-800-755-4769** (toll free).
- If your child is in preschool in Cuyahoga County, there's free technical assistance and training from Starting Point. Call **216-575-0061** or toll free at **1-800-880-0971**.
- If your child is school-age, you have the right to ask the school to test your child for learning problems. Write out and date the request and keep a copy of it. Here's a sample letter: tinyurl.com/TestingRequestLetter.
- If you think your children need services, or if they are not getting the help they need or if you disagree with the school's special education plan, the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland can assist in an appeal. Call **1-888-817-3777** toll free.
- For additional information on special education, call the Ohio Department of Education, **614-466-2650** or toll free at **1-877-644-6338**.